

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page1, line 6 and ending at page 1,  
line 12 as follows:

31 The present invention relates to an image processing apparatus and method  
and a storage medium and, more particularly, to image processing ~~of separating~~ to separate  
an object portion and background portion from an image picked up by a video camera or  
the like, or automatically cutting a contour portion of an object in a moving picture.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page10, line8 and ending at page 10,  
line 9 as follows:

32 If Yes in step S200, the process is advanced to step ~~S206~~ 201; and if No, to  
step ~~S201~~ 206.